

REMARKS-General

1. Upon review of the original specification and in light of the observation of the Examiner noted in the above Office Action, the applicant has submitted corresponding corrections to the original specification so as to more clearly and distinctly describe the subject matter of the instant invention, and which provides full antecedent basis to the newly drafted claims. No new matter has been included in the corrections.

2. The newly drafted independent claim 21 incorporates all structural limitations of the original claim 1 and includes further limitations previously brought forth in the disclosure. No new matter has been included. All new claims 21 to 35 are submitted to be of sufficient clarity and detail to enable a person of average skill in the art to make and use the instant invention, so as to be pursuant to 35 USC 112.

Regarding to the Qualification of the Walker et al. patent as Prior Art under 35USC102

3. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 102, "a person shall be entitled to a patent unless:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States.

4. In view of 35 U.S.C. 102(b), it is apparent that a person shall not be entitled to a patent when his or her invention was patent in this country more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States.

5. However, the Walker et al. patent and the instant invention are not the same invention according to the fact that the independent claim 1 of the Walker et al. patent does not read upon the instant invention and the newly amended independent

claim 21 of the instant invention does not read upon the Walker et al. patent either. Apparently, the instant invention, which discloses a method for managing a card game, should not be the same invention as the Walker et al. patent which discloses a system and a method for providing reward points for casino play.

6. The applicant respectfully submits that the instant invention differs from Walker et al. patent as follows:

(a) Referring to the newly amended claim 21, Walker et al. disclose sensors embedded in the bottom portion of the card shoe. When the dealer deals a card, the card must pass over the sensors embedded in the **bottom portion** of the shoe (Walker et al., Page 11, Paragraph 0131). The instant invention, however, claims that "a card reader provided at a **dispensing slot** of said poker dealing device". Thus it is clear that Walker et al. does not anticipate the monitoring device disclosed in Walker et al. In fact, any dispensing slot may not be formed at the bottom portion of the card shoe.

(b) Referring to the newly amended claim 22, Walker et al. disclose a card sensor embedded in the bottom portion of the card shoe. When the dealer deals a card, the card must pass over the sensors embedded in the bottom portion of the shoe. The sensors might count the number of pips on the card, or record variations of light and dark color as the card passes over. The instant invention, however, provides a card indicator on each of the playing cards for identifying the playing card in question. The card indicator can be embodied as a barcode optically readable by the card reader. Accordingly, the card reader of the instant invention does not directly read the patterns formed on the playing cards. Rather, each of the playing cards is represented by a unique card indicator which is electronically read by the card reader.

(c) Referring to the newly amended claims 27 and 28, Walker et al. disclose that the gaming tables are preferably in communication with the central controller via a hardwired and/or wireless communication network (Page 2, Paragraph 0039). The instant invention claims that the card signal is wirelessly transmitted from the poker dealing device to the central management unit within the **method** of managing a card game as claim in the newly amended claim 21. Thus it is submitted that Walker et al. does not anticipate the instant invention **as a whole**.

(d) Referring to the newly amended claim 32, Walker et al. disclose that sensors embedded in the table that detect information related to the amount of a player's wager. The instant invention claims a **method** of managing a card game as claim in the newly amended claim 21, with steps to detect player's wagers and send the corresponding signal to the central management unit. Thus it is submitted that Walker et al. does not anticipate the instant invention **as a whole**.

(e) Referring to the newly amended claim 34, Walker et al. disclose a pressure sensors utilized to sense the weight of a player's chips. The instant invention claims a **method** of managing a card game as claim in the newly amended claim 21, with steps to detect player's wagers by a pressure sensor. It is submitted that Walker et al. **as a whole** does not anticipate the instant invention.

Response to Rejection of Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 20 under 35USC103

7. The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 20 over Walker et al. in view of various prior art. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103:

"(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is **not identically** disclosed or described as set forth in **section 102 of this title**, if the **differences** between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the **subject matter as a whole would have been obvious** at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made."

8. In view of 35 U.S.C. 103(a), it is apparent that to be qualified as a prior art under 35USC103(a), the prior art must be cited under 35USC102(a)~(g) but the disclosure of the prior art and the invention are not identical and there are one or more differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art. In addition, such differences between the subject matter sought to be patented **as a whole**

and the prior art are obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains.

9. In other words, the differences between the subject matter sought to be patent as a whole of the instant invention and Walker et al. which is qualified as prior art of the instant invention under 35USC102(b) are obvious in view of the various cited prior art. at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains.

10. The applicant respectfully submits that the differences between the subject matter sought to be patent as a whole of the instant invention and Walker et al. which is qualified as prior art of the instant invention under 35USC102(b) are **not** obvious in view of the various cited prior art, due to the following reasons:

(f) Referring to the newly amended claims 23 and 24, Walker et al. disclose sensors embedded in the bottom portion of the card shoe. Franchi teaches that laser scanners may be utilized to read optical codes off the cards. Franchi specifically teaches that the laser scanner must be provided beneath a scanner window so that the cards having the barcodes must pass through the scanner window for scanning (Franchi, Column 10, Lines 42 to 48). It is submitted that Walker et al. and Franchi do not teach, motivate or suggest that when the card reader is positioned at the dispensing slot of the poker dealing device, the scanner can be a barcode scanner.

(g) Referring to the newly amended claims 25, 26 and 32, Lorsen et al. disclose a Dedicated Signal Board (DSB) converting the analog output voltages from the card recognition sensors into digital output signals. Lorsen et al. specifically point out that the digital output signal is from light and dark portions of the playing cards. Both Walker et al. and Lorsen et al. do not teach, motivate or suggest that the card signals converted into digital form are from **barcodes**.

(h) Referring to the newly amended claims 33, Walker et al. disclose that the gaming tables are preferably in communication with the central controller via a hardwired and/or wireless communication network (Page 2, Paragraph 0039). However, Walker et al. do not teach, suggest or motivate that the card signal is wirelessly transmitted from the poker dealing device to the central management unit within the **method** of managing a card game as claim in the newly amended claim 21.

(i) Referring to the newly amended claims 29 to 31, Hill (US2002/0068635) discloses an improved display mechanism for use during card games. Such mechanism can enhance the accuracy and speed of posting of commissions collected or owed (Hill, Page 3, Paragraph 19). However, Walker et al. and Hill do not teach, suggest or motivate the use of displaying of cards records for the purpose of reducing the risk of cheating in a typical poker game.

(j) Referring to the newly amended claim 35, Walker et al. disclose a pressure sensors utilized to sense the weight of a player's chips. The instant invention claims a **method** of managing a card game as claim in the newly amended claim 21, with steps to detect player's wagers by a pressure sensor. Walker et al. do not teach, suggest or motivate the use of the pressure sensor in a method of managing a card game and prevent cheating.

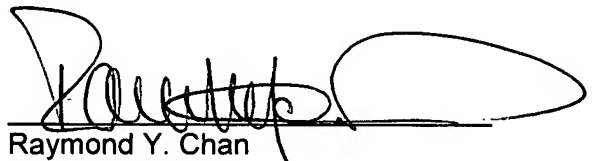
The Cited but Non-Applied References

11. The cited but not relied upon references have been studied and are greatly appreciated, but are deemed to be less relevant than the relied upon references.

12. In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested. Allowance of claims 21 to 35 at an early date is solicited.

13. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed in order to place the application in condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

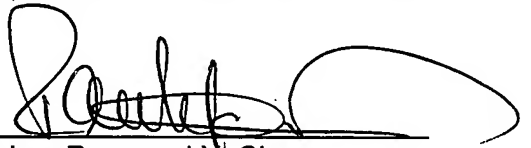


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this corresponding is being deposited with the United States Postal Service by First Class Mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on the date below.

Date: 05/03/2007

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Person Signing: Raymond Y. Chan